

## Steam Efficiency Experts at Your Fingertips: An Introduction to the BestPractices Steam Steering Committee

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Industry depends on steam systems for achieving a wide variety and volume of manufacturing tasks. Despite the fact that about 45% of industry's energy consumption is directed to boiler rooms, steam management is often a neglected discipline. To address this oversight, and to boost industrial competitiveness through better resource management, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sponsors the BestPractices Steam program.

The Alliance to Save Energy conceived this program, which was launched in collaboration with DOE in 1998 as the "Steam Challenge."

Modeled on the DOE Motor Challenge program, this steam initiative gathered industry experts in a steering committee. That group continues to provide guidance and oversight to DOE in developing actionable steam diagnostic and reference resources for industrial plant managers.

The **BestPractices Steam Steering Committee** currently consists of 46 volunteers, including industrial steam end users, steam solution providers, trade associations, national laboratories, educational institutions, Federal and local government representatives, and non-profit organizations. Staff support is provided by DOE, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Alliance to Save Energy. This staff, along with the steering committee of volunteer experts, ensures the development of steam resources that are non-biased, rigorously formulated, and responsive to industry needs.

The steering committee meets twice a year to brainstorm on steam efficiency needs in the marketplace, plan future training and outreach events, develop new technical tools, enhance

Table 1. Top 10 BestPractices Documents/Software Downloads

Document/Program	Number of Downloads <i>www.oit.doe.gov/bestpractices</i> October 2002 to August 2003
1. Improving Steam System Performance: A Sourcebook for Industry	57,569
2. Steam System Survey Guide	56,630
3. CIBO Energy Efficiency Handbook	42,617
4. Guide to Low-Emission Boiler and Combustion Equipment Selection	31,807
5. United States Industrial Electric Motor Systems Market Opportunities Assessment	28,625
6. Steam System Opportunity Assessment for the Pulp and Paper, Chemical Manufacturing, and Petroleum Refining Industries	28,140
7. Fact Sheet: Reducing Power Factor Cost	21,591
8. Fact Sheet: Determining Electric Motor Load and Efficiency	19,982
9. Improving Pumping System Performance: A Sourcebook for Industry	19,317
10. Assessment of the Market for Compressed Air Efficiency Services	19,210
<b>Total BestPractices Steam Downloads (in the top 10)</b>	<b>216,763</b>
<b>Total BestPractices Downloads (all downloads)</b>	<b>1,044,491</b>
<b>BestPractices Steam Downloads as percent of total</b>	<b>20.7%</b>

existing resources, and report success stories back to DOE. Distinct agendas are assigned to each of its four subcommittees: BestPractices and Technical, Marketing and Business Communications, Training, and Program Evaluation and Policy.

The **BestPractices and Technical Subcommittee** developed the steam-related resources available through DOE's Web site. These resources are some of the most popular downloads of all DOE BestPractices program resources. More than 20% of these downloads were steam-related. Listed in Table 1 are the top 10 files/programs downloaded from October 2002 through August 2003.

**Marketing and Business Communications Subcommittee** activities include workshops, conferences, and publications. To showcase the best in professional steam literature, the Alliance to Save Energy puts together this annual *Steam Digest* compendium. These articles include steam facility case studies, benchmarking projects done through steam assessments, diagnostic software resources, outsourcing trends, and program resources developed by DOE. Readers will notice that many *Steam Digest* authors are also on the steering committee. To request a copy of the publication on CD-ROM, contact the EERE Information Center at 1-877-337-3463 (1-877-EERE-INF).

Many steering committee members are featured speakers at the Alliance's "Optimizing Steam System Performance" awareness workshops held throughout the United States. In 2003, the Alliance sponsored 14 workshops reaching more than 650 individuals and 280 companies. Speakers cover topics such as best practices in steam distribution, optimizing condensate return systems and water treatment, combined heat and power applications, return on investment from training, business impacts of steam efficiency, and industrial case studies. One of the key features is the steam software tool demonstration where attendees learn how to use the Steam System Assessment Tool. With the steering committee's participation and valuable information to share, more industrial and institutional steam users are making steam efficiency projects happen. According to the workshop attendees, more than 80% planned to implement a project using the information provided at the workshops.

In 2003, the **Training Subcommittee** inaugurated the Steam Qualified Specialist training, which is designed for steam service providers who are interested in becoming proficient in using the BestPractices Steam software tools. Steering committee members provided valuable feedback throughout the process—from assisting with course design to participating in the trial training process. See [www.oit.doe.gov/bestpractices/software/steam\\_by\\_name.shtml](http://www.oit.doe.gov/bestpractices/software/steam_by_name.shtml) for a list of DOE Steam Qualified Specialists. To find out when the next Qualified Specialist training or other events will occur, visit [www.ase.org/steamingahead/calendars/](http://www.ase.org/steamingahead/calendars/).

The **Program Evaluation and Public Policy Subcommittee** ensures the overall effectiveness of the BestPractices Steam initiative through developing and applying key metrics. The subcommittee also identifies and evaluates public policy needs that would increase awareness and encourage actions by industry to improve steam efficiency.